



THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

July 11, 1958

Dear

Our records show a decrease during the last few years in the number of pieces of library materials transferred to the Library of Congress by other Federal libraries. This decrease is cause for concern since the Library of Congress has found, over the years, that the materials it receives from other Federal libraries contain many items that fill gaps in its collections and help to build up the library resources of the Federal government and of the Nation.

The reason for this decrease may be a misunderstanding as to the Library's need for excess materials or as to the intent of Personal Property Management, Regulation no. 6, revised, issued by the General Services Administration on September 7, 1951 under provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949. This Regulation permits executive agencies to exchange, without monetary appraisal, detailed listing or reporting, books and periodicals from their libraries not needed for permanent use for other books and periodicals. As you may know, Section 148, Title 2, United States Code which authorized Federal agencies to transfer their excess library materials to the Library of Congress was repealed with the enactment of the Federal property and Administrative Services Act of 1949. According to officials of the General Services Administration, Federal agencies have the same authority to make transfers of library materials to the Library of Congress under Regulation no. 6 as they had under 2 USC 148. These transfers to the Library of Congress are regarded by GSA as exchanges because the Library of Congress is continually supplying other Federal libraries with materials from its duplicates stock, pursuant to 2 USC 149.

In this connection, it would seem that it is in the best interest of the Government for other Federal libraries to transfer their excess library materials to the Library of Congress which is, in effect, serving as a clearinghouse for the distribution of

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Library materials  
to the Library of Congress*

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these materials to the Federal library community and to non-Federal institutions in the United States. We are, therefore, requesting all Federal libraries either to send their excess library materials to the Library of Congress automatically or to offer them to it before they are disposed of to non-governmental institutions.

With reference to the transfer of library materials from the Library of Congress pursuant to 2 USC 149, you are invited to visit the Library's Exchange and Gift Division to select from its duplicate collection publications which would be useful to your library.

Mr. Keller or Mr. Wood, of the Library's Exchange and Gift Division, will be glad to answer any questions that you may have concerning this matter. They may be reached on Code 173, Extension 735.

Sincerely yours,



L. Quincy Mumford  
Librarian of Congress